

United Nations

Press Release

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Secretary-General expresses "profound satisfaction" at Soviet President Gorbachev's return to power; wishes him "every success in the great and challenging tasks that lie ahead".
- ◆ International Court of Justice in the Hague announces death of Judge Taslim O. Elias of Nigeria.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has expressed "profound satisfaction" at Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's return to power.

Last night in Portugal, where he is currently on vacation, he told the press that he was confident the Soviet authorities would resume work on establishing democracy in the country after the failed coup. He expressed hope that, after this experience, the legitimate authorities in the Soviet Union would continue their endeavours to establish democracy in their country firmly and definitely. He was confident that President Gorbachev would continue the policy which, he said, had been contributing so effectively to the creation of a climate of peace, justice and understanding.

In a personal message to the Soviet President, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar expressed the wish that Mr. Gorbachev would succeed in the "great and challenging tasks that lie ahead" in his effort to "restructure the political and economic life of the Soviet Union on a democratic basis." The Secretary-General went on to say that the "courage and determination" of the Soviet People to persevere in such a course, as witnessed in the past days, was "truly inspiring".

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents at headquarters that the Secretary-General would return to Geneva on 25 August and would begin a series of meetings on 26 August, as previously scheduled.

(more)

The International Court of Justice in the Hague, Netherlands, has announced the death of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias of Nigeria.

A member of the Court since 1976, Judge Elias had been Vice President and President of the International Body.

Before he joined the International Court of Justice, Judge Elias served his country as Attorney General, Minister of Justice and Commissioner of Justice. He was 77.

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